



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Douglas A. SCHEIN et al.

Group Art Unit: 3734

Application No.: 10/646,801

Examiner: D. YABUT

Filed: August 25, 2003

Docket No.: 115621

For: CANNULAS, CANNULA MOUNT ASSEMBLIES, AND CLAMPING METHODS
USING SUCH CANNULAS AND CANNULA MOUNT ASSEMBLIES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

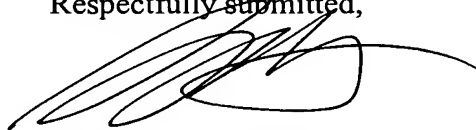
In reply to the October 19, 2006 Restriction/Election of Species Requirement, the period being extended by the Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-44 and 65-103 with traverse. Applicants also provisionally elect Species 4, Figures 18-23, with traverse. Claims 1-23, 36-44, 65-84, and 93-103 read on the elected species. Claims 1-8, 36-40, 42-43, 65-71, 75-81, 95-97, and 99-103 are generic to all species. Claims 9-14, 18-23 are generic to at least species 1 and 4.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims or species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims/species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the

examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Stephen P. Catlin
Registration No. 36,101

WPB:SPC/axl

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 19, 2007

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